

APPROVED 6-10-03
KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2003

EXCHANGE BUILDING-CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Shauna Cheney, Alice Howell, Howard Miller, Freda Monroe, Helen Nilon, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling, Clifford Thurston, Gwendolyn Williams

Members Absent: Jack Fuller (excused), Mindy Meyring (excused), Jim Nobles (excused), Debbie Roszkowski

Guests Present: Linda Brown, KCASAAB Liaison for MHAB; Ed Gutkowski, a board applicant; John Marlovits, private citizen; Pamela Pratt (a board applicant), Mike Rynas, NAMI WA; Christine White, NAMI Greater Seattle

Staff Present: Lisbeth Gilbert, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

Board Chair Howard Miller convened the meeting of the King County Mental Health Advisory Board at 4:10 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Howard made brief welcoming remarks and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2003 MINUTES

Alice Howell noted a minor correction under liaison report on Valley Cities Counseling and Consulting Center, 2nd paragraph of page 6. It should state: "Highline West Seattle Mental Health is providing a recovery mental health program, ***and will eventually be housing some clients in pre-fabricated housing on their campus.***"

Eleanor Owen made a motion, which was seconded by Freda Monroe, to accept the March 11, 2003 minutes, as corrected. The motion passed and was approved unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of Board Applicant

Howard Miller officially presented Ed Gutkowski to the group and asked him to introduce himself and to state his interest in joining the board. In brief, Mr.

Gutkowski stated his work experiences and knowledge/skills in the mental health field.

Mr. Gutkowski received a warm welcome and commendations from board members. Howard asked for a vote on Mr. Gutkowski's nomination for appointment to the King County Mental Health Advisory Board. Eleanor Owen made a motion and seconded by Freda Monroe to nominate Edward Gutkowski for appointment to the board. The motion was passed unanimously.

B, Information Gathering

Liz Gilbert asked for volunteers from three board members to participate in a Consumer Voice Assessment Project 2003 survey for the State's Mental Health Division. The board chair is automatically drafted to take part in this survey but two additional board members are also needed. The volunteers will meet with Mental Health Division Contractor, Kathryn Harris, before the next board meeting. Helen Nilon and Freda Monroe volunteered.

C. Word of Encouragement

Board Chair Howard Miller encouraged the board to continue their legislative advocacy efforts. He added that interaction with legislators and their aides pays off in the long run. He himself has received positive responses from several. He individually recognized the advocacy efforts made by Helen Nilon, Clifford Thurston, Ron Sterling, Mindy Meyring and Eleanor Owen on behalf of mentally ill clients.

D. Miscellaneous

The King County Mental Health Advisory Board (KCMHAB) and the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) will hold a joint meeting on May 13, 2003, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Exchange Building, Conference Room 6A. KCMHAB will host this joint board meeting.

NAMI Greater Seattle and the Community Psychiatric Center are co-sponsoring the Move for Mental Health 2003 event which will be held on Sunday, September 28th at Sand Point Magnuson Park in Seattle. This annual event aims to raise funds and awareness for mental health issues.

Board Chair Howard Miller acknowledged the work done by Rhoda Naguit in putting together a legislative and advocacy tool kit to be incorporated in the Board Orientation Manual.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee – Eleanor Owen

Eleanor reported that at the last meeting, the committee evaluated last year's performance and discussed this year's work plan. The committee has begun preparation for this year's Community Forum. In addition, they discussed the cost of healthcare and the proposed budget.

Ron Sterling stated that, as part of Mental Health Month observance this year, the Public Affairs Committee will utilize media to disseminate information on the significance of this annual event.

Linda Brown added that the committee spent a fair amount of time discussing the status of various bills impacting chemical dependency and mental health issues and how to strengthen its legislative and advocacy efforts. Linda expressed appreciation for the support extended by the mental health board on the beer excise tax. A joint letter from both board chairs was sent to the legislators in support of the passage of a beer excise tax.

B. Nomination Update

Rhoda Naguit reported that Helen Nilon and Shauna Cheney appeared last Thursday, April 3rd, before the Law, Justice, and Human Services Committee of the King County Council, for their confirmation hearing. The committee approved their appointments and has forwarded them to the full King County Council for final action.

The recommendation for Edward Gutkowski's appointment to the Mental Health Advisory Board will be forwarded to the Department of Community and Human Services Director's office. Rhoda Naguit will draft a nomination letter for Jackie MacLean's signature to be sent to the King County Executive's Office this week.

Another recent board applicant, Pam Pratt, was introduced to the group. The Nominations Committee will interview her next month.

C. Quality Council

Ron Sterling was unable to attend the last meeting of the Quality Council. Because many other committee members were also absent, the meeting was cancelled.

V. STAFF REPORT – Jean Robertson

A. Consumer Pilot Project

Copies of information about available funds for Consumer Pilot Projects were distributed. These funds will provide opportunities for consumers enrolled in the King County Mental Health Plan to design, implement, and run their own projects. Deadline for submission of written proposals is April 25, 2003. A committee of King County Mental Health staff and consumers will review the proposals. Funding decision will be made public by May 16, 2003.

B. Request for Proposals

Jean shared the results of the following requests for proposals:

- Vocational RFP was awarded to Transitional Resources, in partnership with Valley Cities and Highline-West Seattle Mental Health Center, and Community Psychiatric Clinic. These agencies will develop regional employment centers for clients to get job training and support services.
- Residential services statement of policy is being shifted from facility based service to more normative housing with a continuum of supportive services that are more consistent with a recovery vision. The Division has been meeting with residential providers for input to move the process forward.
- The Housing Voucher Case Management Program was awarded to Seattle Mental Health and Pioneer Human Services. This program is intended to provide a six-month housing voucher for individuals coming out of the King County Jail. The funding for this program came from treatment dollars due to closure of CHAT. A Housing Manager will be hired.

C. HIPAA Update

By April 14th, HIPAA will be fully implemented. A Notice of Privacy Practices will be presented to clients to read and sign as required by the regulation. Clients need to sign receipt of this document only once when they access services. However, they may be asked to read and sign those papers again each time they enter a system.

D. Senate Budget Update

The Senate Budget, which passed through the full Senate last week, is better than the Governor's budget. It did produce a no-new tax budget. It restored the caseload reduction to mental health, re-defined eligibility and no rate cut. It turned the medically indigent program into two block grants, one to rural hospitals, and the other to those hospitals disproportionately impacted by low-income clientele. The Senate budget called for the closure of Fircrest. Clients from Fircrest will be moved

to a facility in Rainier, where a new ward would be built to house clients with medical care needs.

The Senate budget would have a negative impact on the Basic Health Plan, and the medical program for children.

E. Disaster Preparedness

A Disaster Preparedness Exercise, called TOPOFF, will be held the second week of May to be attended by top officials. Jean will participate in this drill; therefore she will be unable to attend the joint board meeting next month.

F. Department Director's Confirmation

The full King County Council has confirmed Jackie MacLean's appointment as Director of the Department of Community and Human Services.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

Freda Monroe: Mental Health Court/Asian Counseling and Referral Service

Freda will make available data from the Mental Health Court to board members who are interested receiving a copy.

Freda commended ACRS for having the largest number of approved culturally competent specialists on its staff.

Jack Fuller: Community Psychiatric Center

Not present to report.

Alice Howell: Highline – West Seattle Mental Health/Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation

No report at this time.

Howard Miller: Downtown Emergency Service Center

The agency is still struggling to fund capital needs, with a \$3M deficit in 2002. Currently, the deficit has gone down to \$900,000 due to private donations. The upgrading of Morrison Hotel is being redesigned. This facility is dedicated to providing housing for homeless chronic inebriates and mentally ill clients.

He also shared information about the Chronic Homeless Profile Work group in which he and Eleanor Owen have been invited to participate. David Wertheimer

has convened this group to focus on providing housing for 100 homeless people. This is a federally funded project.

Eleanor Owen: Partnership Group

At the last Partnership meeting, Amnon Shoenfeld, MHCADS Division Director, gave an update on programs being funded by the Division. Kelly Evans, DCHS lobbyist, distributed copies of a fact sheet which focused on two issues in the Governor's budget: incorrect local match dollar amounts; and assumption of a large case load increase and a rather substantial rate decrease. There was also a HIPAA presentation made by Gloria Bailey.

Clifford Thurston: Community House

Clifford gave an update on the status of a piece of legislation he developed for the agency, which is gaining coalition support. The bill regarding clubhouses will be put into RCW 71.24 at the 2004 regular legislature session.

James Nobles: Chronic Populations Action Council

Not present to make a report.

Shauna Cheney: Consejo Counseling and Referral Services/Seattle Counseling Service

Shauna Cheney met with Seattle Counseling Services (SCS) Director Ann McGettingan. She gave a brief description of staff composition and services provided by the agency. She added that the agency is coming out of a four-year deficit.

Linda Brown commended SCS for stepping up to the plate when Stonewall Recovery Center had to close their facility at the end of 2002 due to huge budget deficit.

Debra Roszkowski: Harborview Mental Health Services

Not present to make a report.

Helen Nilon: Seattle Mental Health

The agency's main concern is how to serve people without Medicaid coverage.

VII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

A. Agenda for Joint Board Meeting

There will be a presentation on Adolescent Treatment Enhancement Project (ATEP). Board Chairs Linda Brown and Howard Miller will put together an agenda for the joint board meeting.

B. NAMI Activities

NAMI Greater Seattle will hold an educational forum on the Community Involved Justice program. Lorri Cox, Senior Court Specialist for the Municipal Court of Seattle will speak on an innovative project developed to provide a broad array of services and support, including mental health services, for people entering and exiting the criminal justice system.

There will be free workshops on Ticket to Work in Lynnwood on April 14th and at a location near Sea-Tac on May 13th.

NAMI Eastside is sponsoring a League of Women Voters meeting to present the Community Mental Health System Study on Thursday, May 8, 2003, at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Howard Miller
Board Chair